4: Villa Rojas E-4,5 (1938-1944) 1969 NV9 Tzeltal NV9

9. The Tzeltal

ALFONSO VILLA ROJAS

131 OCCUPYING A REGION east of the Tzotzil, the Tzeltal live in the central part of the state of Chia-
133 pas, Mexico. Three natural zones divide this land: gentle slopes and plains in the south (Amatenango del Valle, Aguacatenango, Pinola, Soyatitan, and Socoltenango), high peaks and irregular terrain in the central part (Chanal, Oxchuc, Tenejapa, Cancuc, Abasolo, and Tenango); lower peaks toward the north.

GEOGRAPHY AND DEMOGRAPHY

• 13 Vegetation varies with climate and altitude. In the temperate or cold lands, evergreen oaks and pines predominate; in the lower and warm areas are high evergreen forests, alternating with savannas and subdeciduous forest (F. Miranda, 1952, vol. 1, ch. 3). In
[245] the temperate and the warm zones coffee and a great variety of fruit trees—orange, annona, peach—are cultivated.

133 Few rivers of any volume cross the moun-
[487] tainous terrain. None are navigable. The hydrographic system is delimited by the Usmacinta and Grijalva rivers; the former

[P 195-A]